

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims:

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 are objected to.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

II. Amendment of Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32

Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32, as amended herewith, include the phrase "application software" (emphasis added).

Applicants note that the specification as originally filed discloses application software, for example, on p. 14 where it discloses application software that a user can use to view images:

"... if the reading of the original data is complete, the process proceeds to step S34 where the image data written in the memory 16 is read out, and transmitted to the host computer 2 via the I/F 18.

... In step S35, the read software 24, which as been already launched, processes the received image data, and, for example, displays an image on a CRT display."
(emphasis added)

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by the amendments submitted herewith.

III. Objection to Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32:

Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 were objected to because of certain informalities cited by the Examiner. Applicants have amended these claims according to the Examiner's instructions and respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 14, 24, 37, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Sakurai and Ara.

The Examiner concedes that:

“Kaneko ... does not clearly disclose print and read software stored on the image processing apparatus and launching either the print or read software depending on the selected option detected by the detection device.”

The Examiner then states that Sakurai discloses:

“... a printer and control method wherein a host computer (100) ... launches either the print or scanner (option device) software depending on the selected option detected by the detection device ...”
(emphasis added)

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Sakurai instead discloses driver-change means for changing a driver:

“... the information processing apparatus ... comprises driver-change means for changing a driver for the printer in accordance with the identification information outputted from the printer.”
(see Sakurai Col. 2 Ln. 11-14; emphasis added)

Applicants wish to point out that drivers are different from print and read software. As is known in the art, a driver is code which allows a computer to interface with and/or control a peripheral device such as a printer, disk drive, or the like. For example, Sakurai states:

“In this system, various printer operations are controlled via a printer driver in the host computer ... For example, if an option device of the printer is a postcard feeder, the capability of the printer driver must include the card reader function.”
(see Sakurai, Col. 1 Ln. 14-25)

The specification of the present invention makes it clear that the print and read software are not drivers. The specification conveys this fact, for example, by noting the print and read software to be distinct and separate entities from the system's drivers:

“In the host computer 2, a driver software ..., software for printing (called “print software” hereinafter) 23, and software for reading (called “read software” hereinafter) 24 are installed.”
(see p. 10 of specification; emphasis added)

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 to make it clear that the print and read software are not drivers.

For at least the above-identified reasons, Sakurai fails to disclose or suggest at least:

“... detecting the option selected or installed ... and ... automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option ...”
(emphasis added)

as stated by amended claim 1, with similar matter being stated by amended claims 24, 27, and 36. Sakurai similarly fails to disclose or suggest at least:

“... output means for outputting a signal indicative of which of said software should be launched ...”

as stated by amended claim 14.

Furthermore, although Ara states:

“In addition, when the scanner unit 8 is used to read an original document, a blank space (printable area) of the read image, in which characters or the like can be written, may be detected, and this blank space, together with the read image, may be displayed on a specific area of the display section of the host apparatus 19”
(see Ara Col. 9 Ln. 28-33),

Ara also fails to disclose at least the above-quoted features of the claims. For example, Ara discloses neither “automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software … depending upon the selected or installed option” nor “output means for outputting a signal indicative of which of said software should be launched”.

Moreover, Applicants submit that Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the above-quoted features. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32, as well as claims 2-13, 25, 26, and 28-31 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the telephone number given below.

In the event any fees are necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 13-4500, order no. 1232-4465.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIXCLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which print application software and read application software are installed, said system comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

launching means for automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected by said detection device, and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

14. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, which realizes a composite system in combination with an information processing apparatus to which print application software and read application software are installed, said apparatus comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

output means for outputting a signal indicative of [the selected or installed option detected by said detection device,] which of said software should be launched and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

24. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus to which print application software and read application software are installed, which realizes a composite system in combination with a first apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, said apparatus comprising:

launching means for automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the option selected or installed on said first apparatus, and for allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.

27. (Twice Amended) A function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which print application software and read application software are installed, said method characterized by comprising:

a detection step of detected the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

a launching step of automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected at said detection step, and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when it is detected in said detection step that said reader is selected or installed.

32. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which print software and read software are installed, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

second computer readable program code means for automatically launching either the print application software or the read application software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.